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neurite outgrowth from damaged neurons undergoing nerve fiber atrophy, said method comprising the step of contacting a cell with [an agent which modulates sema K1 activity] a polypeptide according to claim 12,³ and thereby [modulates the cell's physiology, wherein the agent comprises a polypeptide according to claim 12] enhancing organotypic neurite outgrowth from said neurons.

8 27. (Amended) A method for [modulating a cellular physiology] enhancing organotypic neurite outgrowth from damaged neurons undergoing nerve fiber atrophy, said method comprising the step of contacting a cell with [an agent which modulates sema K1 activity] a polypeptide according to claim 13,⁴ and thereby [modulates the cell's physiology, wherein the agent comprises a polypeptide according to claim 13] enhancing organotypic neurite outgrowth from said neurons.

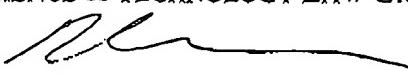
REMARKS

Amendments

The claims have been amended to comply with the definiteness issues raised in the Action; specifically, the objected to references to "cellular physiology" and "agent" have been removed. The claims have also been restricted to the method deemed by the Action to be enabled; specifically, a method for enhancing organotypic neurite outgrowth from damaged neurons (the same functional limitation found in claims 10-13). These amendments introduce no new matter.

We request that the subject Action be made non-Final as the rejections therein were newly made. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned if she would like to amend the claims to clarify the foregoing or seeks further clarification of the claim language. Applicants hereby petition for any necessary extension of time pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a). The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overcharges relating to this communication to our Deposit Account No. 19-0750 (order no. EX98-001).

Respectfully submitted,
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY LAW GROUP


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